

Cornerstone Bible Church

Effectual Calling

(Romans 8:29-32)

Survey of Romans part 31

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July 22, 2018

Text: Romans 8:29-32

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

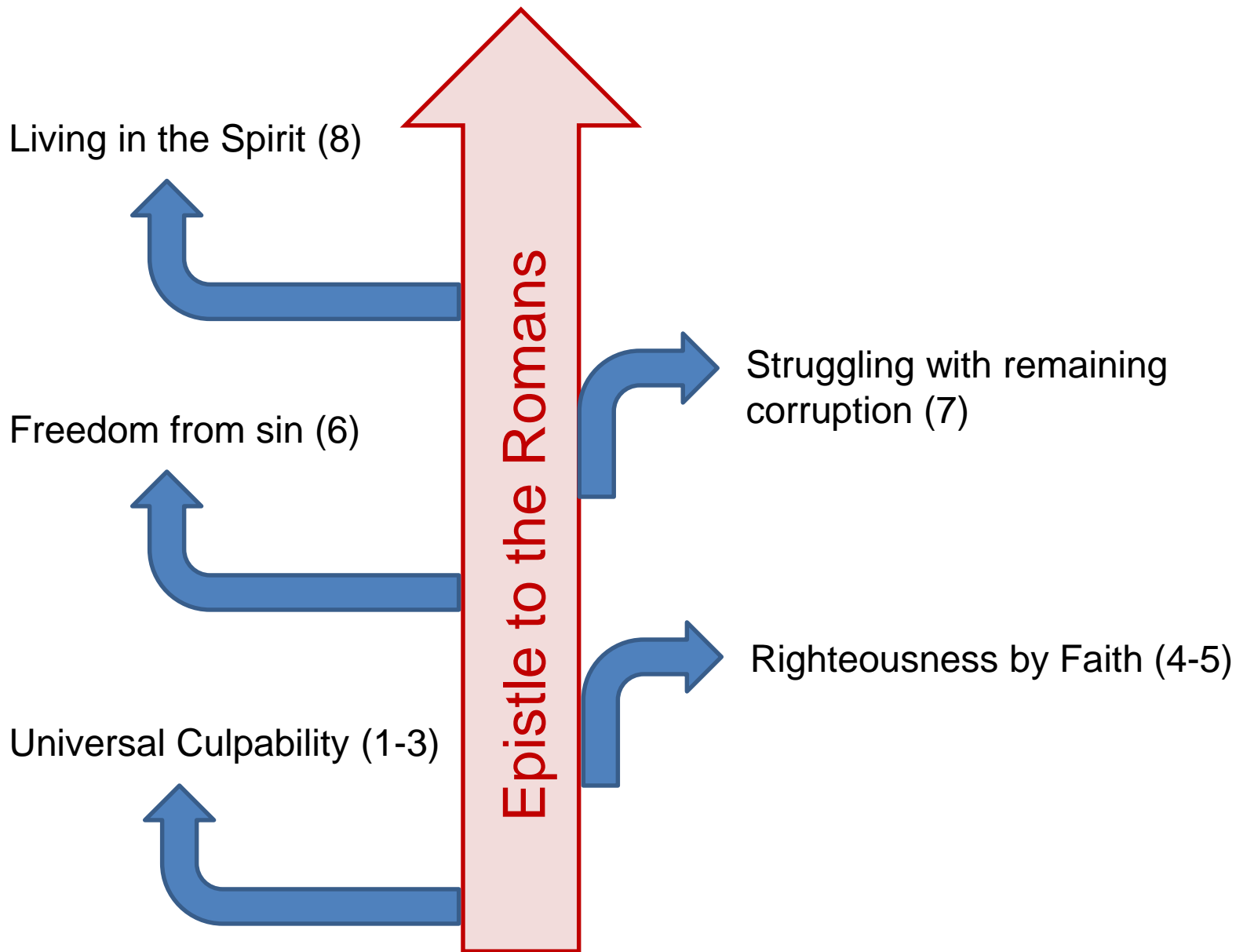
²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;

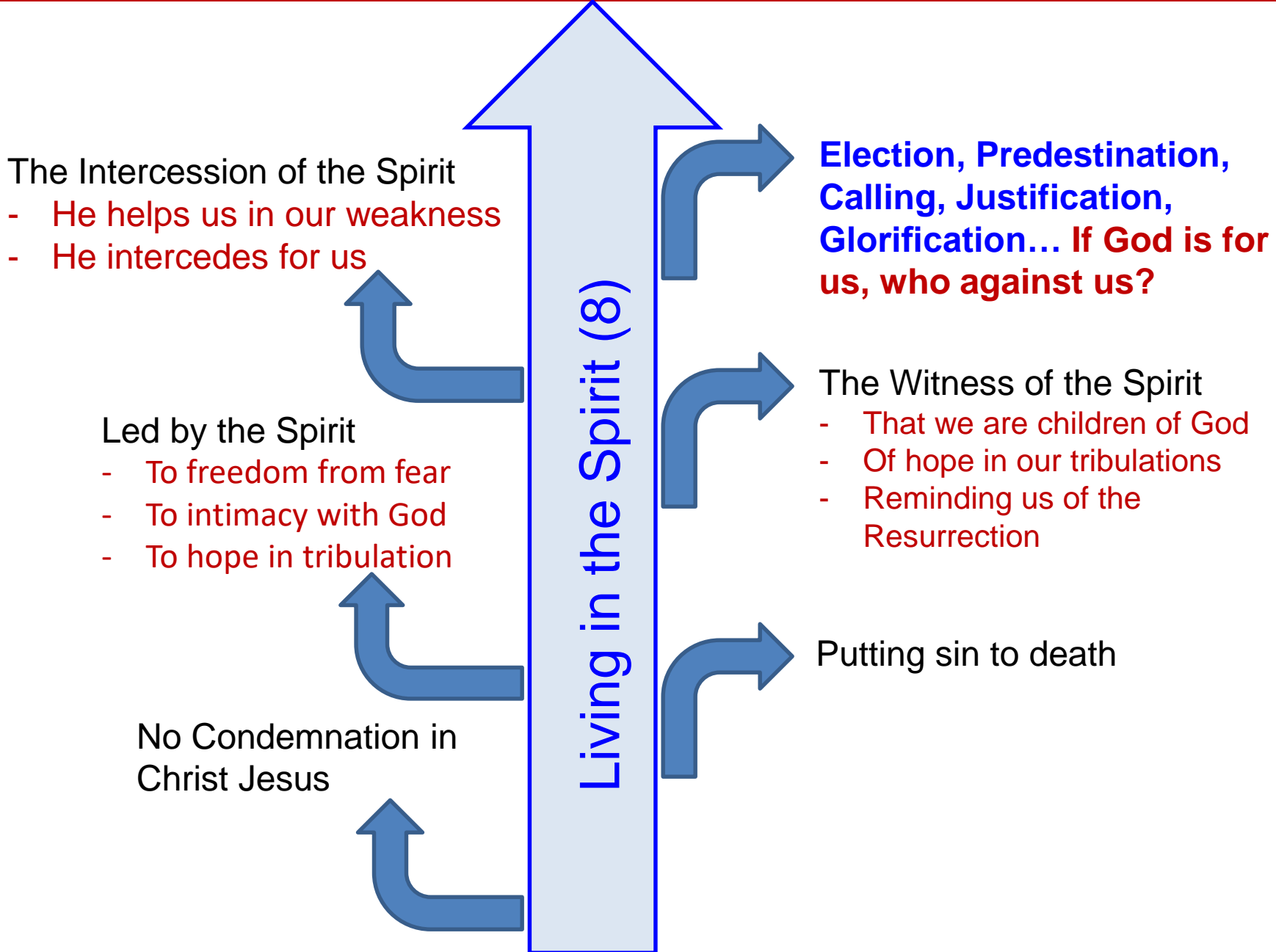
³⁰ and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us?**

³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

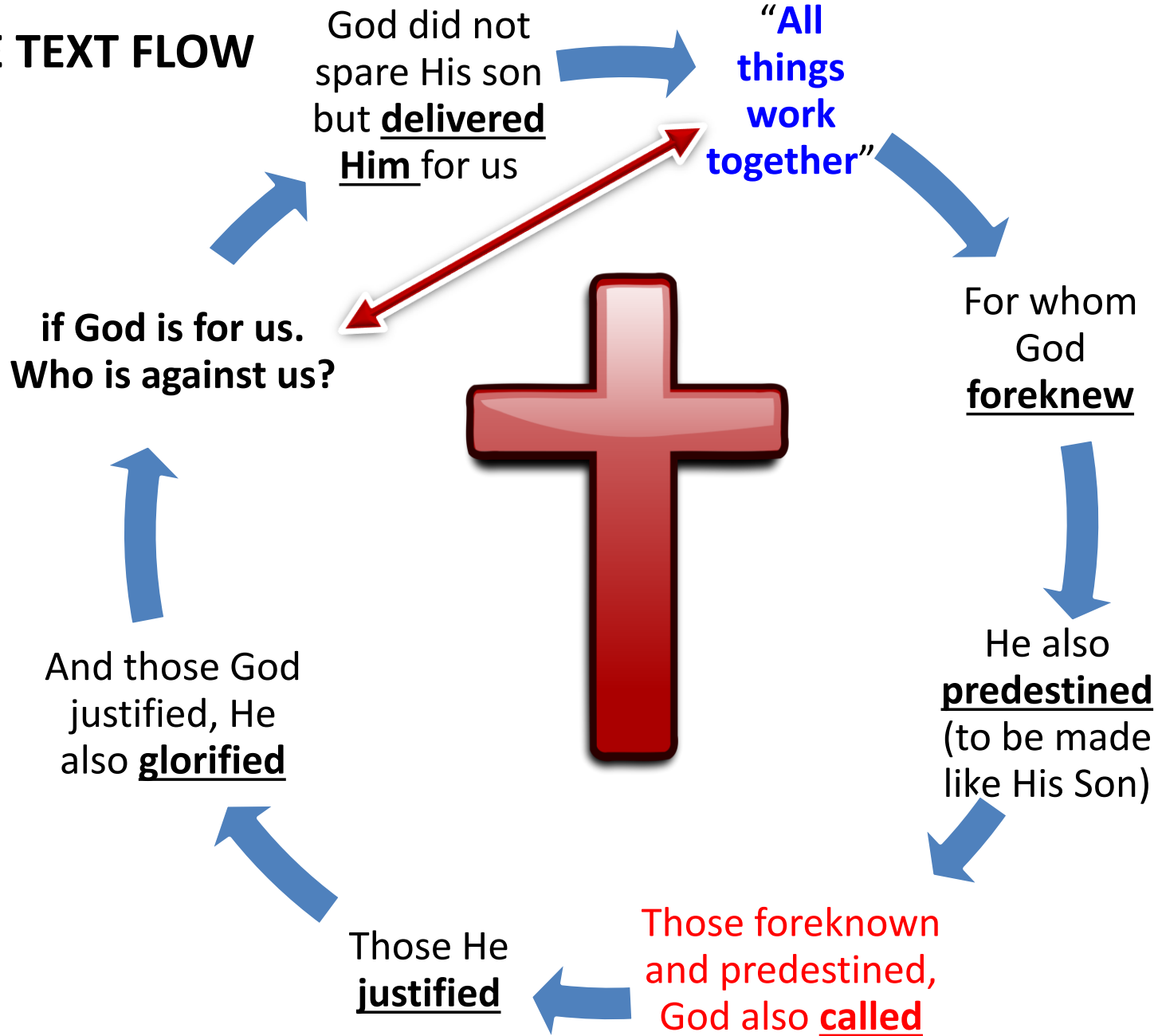
The Gospel





- Paul wrote Romans 8:29-32 to comfort believers, not for controversy.
- It is in the context of the Spirit's help and intercession for the believer under tribulation.
- We remember that, "it is God who causes all things to work together for good, to those who love Him."
- This is the context of the parenthetical remark of verses 29-32.
- ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren...

I – THE TEXT FLOW



Effectual Calling: Westminster Standards

WCF 10.1 All those whom God has predestinated unto life, and those only, He is pleased, in His appointed and accepted time, [to] effectually call, by His Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ.

- a) Enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God;
- b) Taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them a heart of flesh;
- c) Renewing their wills, and, by His almighty power determining them to that which is good; and,
- d) Effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ; yet so as they come most freely, being made willing by His grace.

Effectual Calling a Definition

“It is God the Father’s act through which He draws a sinner to Himself, in an irresistible way (meaning that they will respond affirmatively with faith and repentance) to the message of the Gospel.”

III – EFFECTUAL CALLING

I - **Synonyms:** effectual calling or irresistible grace?



II - **Meaning:** it is God's particular calling to salvation, which cannot and will not be resisted, but it will effectually draw the person, to willingly embrace Christ.

III – EFFECTUAL CALLING

III - Biblical Evidence & Illustrations:

a) God found a heathen in Ur of the Chaldeans named Abram, whom He called to leave his land and relatives and go to a land that God would show him. You know the rest of the story. Genesis 12

b) God found a fugitive old man in the desert, called him by a burning bush to lead His people out of Egypt. You know the rest of the story. Exodus 3

c) God called a brutal king, Nebuchadnezzar, whom He made eat grass, until he broke. Daniel 4

III – EFFECTUAL CALLING

III - Biblical Evidence & Illustrations:

d) The calling of the first disciples Andrew, Peter, James & John as told by Mark 1:16-20

¹⁶And as He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸And they immediately left the nets and followed Him. ¹⁹And going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. ²⁰And immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.

III – EFFECTUAL CALLING

III - Biblical Evidence & Illustrations:

e) John 6:44 & 65 are classic.

⁴⁴“No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

Which is completed by verse 65

“And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father.”

III – EFFECTUAL CALLING

III - Biblical Evidence & Illustrations:

f) Paul's explicit statements in the NT

- Called with a holy calling 2 Timothy 1:8-9

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us, and called us **with a holy calling**, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

- The greeting to Corinth (encompassing every believer) 1:1 the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, **saints by calling**, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

III – EFFECTUAL CALLING

III - Biblical Evidence & Illustrations:

f) Paul's explicit statements in the NT

- Called to God's Kingdom and Glory 1 Thessalonians 2:12

So that you may walk as it is worthy of God who has called you to His Kingdom and Glory.

- This is about Israel, but applies to all Romans 11:29

“for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”

- Called to fellowship with God's Son 1 Corinthians 1:9

“God is faithful, through whom you have been called to fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord”

- g) Peter agrees! 1 Peter 2:9 “... You are a chosen race...

[God] who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”

III – EFFECTUAL CALLING

THEOL. NOTE: EFFECTUAL CALLING IS TIED TO REGENERATION

- Along side with this effectual calling, God produces spiritual life in the person
- Ordo Salutis

Unconditional Election
Effectual Calling
Regeneration
Faith
Justification
Sanctification
Glorification

III – EFFECTUAL CALLING

IV - Distinction from Universal Calling

WCF 10.4 “Others ... although they may be called by the ministry of the Word, and may have some common operations of the Spirit, yet they never truly come unto Christ...”

- a. This is the universal calling to repent. comp. Matthew 22:14 “Many are the called but few are the chosen”

- b. This external calling can be rejected. Acts 17:30 vs 32
=> God commands all men to repent...
=> We shall hear you again some other day...

- c. Irresistible Grace does not mean that God acts against our will, but that “His people will volunteer freely in the Day of His power”. Psalm 110:3 This is why it is better called “effectual calling”

III – EFFECTUAL CALLING

V - Challenges and Caveats to Reformed Believers

These are common to others “Doctrines of Grace”

- a. It poses a difficult to solve paradox
- b. It fosters laziness and lack of creativity in witnessing
- c. It discourages evangelism
- d. It breeds an arrogant intellectualism

When I discover the answer, I will write a book and it will become a Best Seller or perhaps it will be the greatest hoax. I don't believe we cannot answer the paradox.

III – EFFECTUAL CALLING

CONCLUSION: The Heart of God

Ezekiel 33:11 "Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord GOD, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked **turn** from his way and live. **Turn back, turn back** from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'

•Matthew 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! **How often I wanted to gather your children together**, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. ³⁸"Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

END
Questions?